



**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – OCTOBER 5, 2009  
REGULAR MEETING  
City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064**

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**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** – Mayor Sally Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**Council Present:** Sally Harrison, Brett Costley, Cindy Ball, Kevin Hudson.  
Randy Parrow was absent.

**Staff Present:** Bob Young, City Administrator; Frank Grace, Chief of Police;  
Bob Ruhl, Public Works Director; Joann Glass, Admin. and Financial Services  
Manager/City Recorder.

**Press:** Rebecca McGaugh, The Independent, LLC; Scott Laird, Vernonia's Voice

**2. Additions or Corrections to Agenda**

Additions –No. 3 Mayor's Report – B. Letter from Synda Allen

No. 8 City Administrator -- B. Grant Administration Contract

C. Public Works Director Staff Report

Correction – Mayor Harrison asked that the presentation for the promotion of Mike Kay and Mike Conner be pulled due to questions and concerns she had and to reschedule for the next meeting.

Brett Costley moved to approve the agenda with the additions and correction. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Presentation** – Bicycle Skills Park – MacKay and Sposito Engineering

Brian Cole presented to Council a drawing showing what the Bicycle Skills Park may look like once it is completed. Phase I will have a two week comment period before the project is started. The wetlands, existing cement slabs, and all natural material will be considered and either preserved or left alone. Restroom, bike wash, parking, bike racks and an open pavilion are all part of the plans including a disc golf course.

**3. Mayor Report**

A. Vernonia High School Yearbook Class 2009-2010 purchasing an ad in the upcoming year book.

Council approved a ¼ page ad for \$80.00 and \$20.00 to donate to help a student buy a yearbook.

B. Letter from Synda Allen

Synda Allen, Caretaker Vernonia Memorial Cemetery asked that she be excused from attending Cemetery Committee meetings while she attends school from October 2009 to May 2010. She will continue to give reports to the committee and care for the cemetery. Mayor Harrison accepted Synda Allen's excused absence while she attends school.

#### **4. Councilor/Committee Reports and Minutes**

- A. Public Works Committee Minutes – August 26, 2009 – Kevin Hudson  
Kevin Hudson reported that there was a special meeting with information on the application and use of man-made islands for the lagoons. Brown and Caldwell are looking at options for floating lagoons.
- B. Library Board Minutes – June 5, 2009 – Randy Parrow
- C. VCLC Committee – Randy Parrow
- D. Parks Committee Minutes – August 18, 2009 – Brett Costley  
Brett Costley reported that at the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting Chief Grace will be giving a report on the parks and the vandalism that has occurred.
- E. Cemetery Beautification Committee – Cindy Ball  
Cindy Ball reported that there was not a quorum at the last meeting.
- F. Airport Committee – Sally Harrison  
Sally Harrison reported that there would be an Airport Committee meeting on October 7, 2009 at 6:30 pm at City Hall
- G. Economic Development Committee – Sally Harrison  
Sally Harrison reported that the Economic Development Committee is working on helping to support the passage of the school bond.

#### **5. Topics from the Floor/Audience Participation**

*Persons addressing the Council must state their name and address for the record. All remarks shall be directed to the entire City Council. The Council reserves the right to delay any action requested until they are fully informed on the matter.*

Katrina Conner, asked “if the Council typically gets involved in HR? Were the PD promotions approved and budgeted?”

Mayor Harrison explained that she had concerns and questions, and the ceremony would occur at the next council meeting on October 19, 2009. Katrina let council know that they would be on vacation for the next council meeting.

Colleen Posley, questioned the postponement of the police promotions and reiterated the question already asked “does Council typically get involved in HR” when she remembers that Council was reminded by the City Attorney that they do not get involved. She explained that “she did not understand the logic of the Mayor.”

Kevin Hudson explained that he supports the promotion and was surprised to see it on the agenda and that he thought there was going to be additional discussion on restructuring of the police department.

Edward Johnson had a handout that he started to give to the council and explained that it was about a police officer. He was reminded, by Bob Young, City Administrator, that this was out of order for Council to receive any information on a personnel issue. Mr. Johnson was advised to talk to the City Administrator if he had complaints, concerns or questions about staff.

Clark McGaugh questioned that a citizen was not being allowed to be heard. Mr. McGaugh was reminded that citizens may attend council meetings and that Council meetings are not required to have topics from the floor. Questions, concerns and complaints about personnel may be privately directed to a Councilor, the Mayor or the City Administrator.

## **6. Consent Agenda**

A. City Council Minutes – September 21, 2009

B. Cash Disbursements September 30, 2009

Brett Costley moved to accept the consent agenda as written. The motion was seconded and passed.

## **7. Unfinished Business** – There was no unfinished business at this meeting

## **8. Business from Departments**

### **A. Police**

Chief Grace let council know that the police department has had limited coverage and that the schedule has changed and that Officer Carnahan will be on Saturday and Sunday for weekend coverage.

### **B. City Administrator**

Bob Young let council know that the audit of payroll and accounts payable is in progress and that Tanya is working it through.

Bob Young asked that Susan Wagner explain the Grant Administration Contract D8018 between the City and Community Action Team. This is a housekeeping issue and needed to have a signature of approval.

Brett Costley moved “to approve the City Administrator sign the contract D0818 between the City and Community Action Team”. The motion was seconded and passed.

### **C. Public Works Director**

Bob Ruhl gave to the Council a staff report on tasks that is going on with public works. He let council know that there would be an award of a contractor coming to them for the Washington Street Repaving Project.

## **9. Ordinance/Resolution**

A. Resolution in Support of Allowing use of a Portion of the Columbia County Community Development Block Grant Proceeds (Building Demolition Funds) within the incorporated area of the City of Vernonia.

Brett Costley moved “to adopt Resolution No. 21-09”. The motion was seconded and passed.

B. Resolution Surplus Public Works 1984 Dodge Pick-up

Cindy Ball moved to “adopt Resolution No. 22-09”. The motion was seconded and passed.

## **10. Items from Mayor, Councilor, City Administrator**

Mayor Harrison expressed that everyone had a good time and appreciated all that helped with the Play, “Sweet Violette of Vernonia”, on October 3, 2009.

Cindy Ball – had a quiet week and reminded everyone that the Watershed Council is looking for new membership and support and that they are in their new office in the Learning Center. The Black Power Rendezvous did not have a quorum for their last meeting. The group did report that they had about ten percent higher proceeds this year than last year. Cindy also suggested that a formal list be drafted of those that should be invited to the cities special events and meetings. By having a list then no one is missed.

Brett Costley and family thought the Salmon Festival was great and that his kids had fun booing during the play.

Kevin had fun being a part of the play. Kevin questioned the following:

- October 1<sup>st</sup> starts the rainy season and he had questions about what was being put in place for generators and there was surplus equipment that the city was to be able to have on hand. Bob Young said that he was looking into this along with Bob Ruhl and getting some things in place. He has already had one staff meeting on an emergency and will be having more.
- The question was asked about the emergency plan and expressed how well the Joint Incident Command System worked the last time and if this would be incorporated again if there was another emergency.
- The Chief was questioned about the kids that were caught on School Grounds and why there wasn't a press release on what happened. The Chief explained that there was a pending investigation. He would look at how a press release could be done when juvenals are involved and when names cannot be given.
- The Chief was asked where the nuisance abatement process was and that in July there was a report given to council for approximately 16 nuisances. The Chief explained that he was updating the role of the Police Department on nuisance abatement.

Mayor Harrison asked the Chief for a report on arrests and an overview of what the department was doing.

- The Chief was questioned as to where the enforcement of Park rules such as giving a warning the first time and then enforcement.
- The Chief was asked if the implementation of the alarm fees was going to happen.

City Administrator, Bob Young was pleased with the two day training session he attended for Critical Incident Stress Management along with DeAnna Pearl, and three citizens. He thanked Mike Kay for suggesting the attendance of the training. He and Sgt. Kay are developing a team to be available when needed for those that have to deal with stress relating to an emergency.

Bob and Kevin both attended the League of Oregon City conference in Portland and both made good contacts and came away with a lot of ideas and resources.

**Adjournment:** The Vernonia City Council October 5, 2009 meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2009

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sally Harrison, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joann M Glass, City Recorder

Minutes for the October 5, 2009 City Council Meeting were approved October 19, 2009